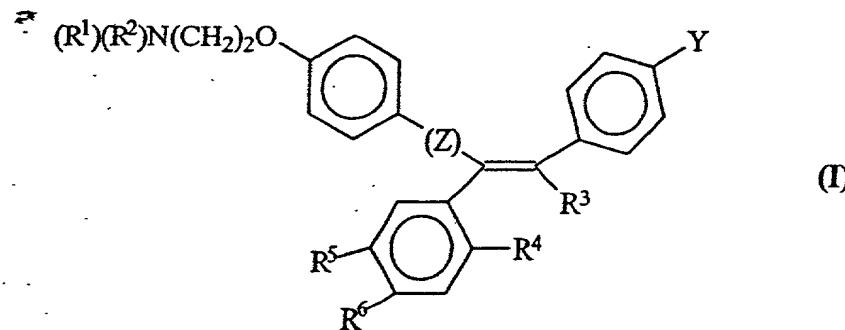


Abstract of the Invention

A method for treating or preventing cardiovascular pathologies by administering a compound of the formula (I):



wherein Z is C= O or a covalent bond; Y is H or O(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are individually (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl or together with N are a saturated heterocyclic group, R<sup>3</sup> is ethyl or chloroethyl, R<sup>4</sup> is H, R<sup>5</sup> is I, O(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl or H and R<sup>6</sup> is I, O(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl or H with the proviso that when R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, and R<sup>6</sup> are H, R<sup>3</sup> is not ethyl; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, effective to elevate the level of TGF-beta to treat and/or prevent conditions such as atherosclerosis, thrombosis, myocardial infarction, and stroke is provided. Useful compounds include idoxifene, toremifene or salts thereof. Further provided is a method for identifying an agent that elevates the level of TGF-beta. Another embodiment of the invention is an assay or kit to determine TGF-beta *in vitro*. Also provided is a therapeutic method comprising inhibiting smooth muscle cell proliferation associated with procedural vascular trauma employing the administration of tamoxifen or structural analogs thereof, including compounds of formula (I).